

NORTHEAST FISHERIES OBSERVER TRAINING STANDARDS

Congratulations on being selected to attend the three-week Northeast Fisheries Observer Training Program! During this period you will receive a wide variety of training that will prepare you in becoming a Fisheries Observer. Once successfully completing this three-week training phase, a supervised at-sea training trip and independent training trips will follow before you are ultimately certified as a Fisheries Observer. Future refresher trainings and additional advanced training will be offered to you as you continue your career as a Fisheries Observer. You should find this training, and the ultimate position as a Fisheries Observer, quite unique and challenging. Welcome aboard!

The following is a list of standards that all trainees are expected to meet:

Physical Standards

1. Swim 100 meters (tested during safety training).
2. Tread water for three (3) minutes (tested during safety training).
3. Don an immersion suit in 60 seconds or less (tested during safety training).
4. Perform various water survival skills (i.e., boarding life raft, cold water skills, etc., introduced and performed during safety training).
5. Be able to climb a ladder.
6. Lift 50 pounds correctly, and drag up to 200 pounds.

Please advise training staff at this point if there are any medical conditions staff should be aware of that may affect your training or future performance as a Fisheries Observer. Though not limited to, some examples are: asthma, any other respiratory ailments, heart conditions, current pregnancy, diabetes, joint conditions, previous injuries or fractures that may affect performance, inner ear problems, head injuries, etc... Temporary medical conditions should also be identified such as: ear infections, recent injuries, etc.

Attendance and Conduct Standards

1. Attend all training classes and activities and be on time for all sessions, not missing any sessions without prior approval.
2. Participate in discussions and exercises and be alert during training sessions.
3. Complete homework and readings.
4. Communicate with trainers, staff and classmates in a professional manner.
5. Not take part in illegal activities. Not attend any training session under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
6. Follow all rules established by the training program.
7. Interact safely and professionally, especially during at-sea and safety training.
8. Wear a seatbelt whenever a driver or passenger in a government or personal vehicle.
9. Submit a signed copy of these STANDARDS the first day of training.

Performance Standards

1. Pass the Marine Mammal ID Exam and Fish ID Lab Practical with a score of at least 85%.
2. Receive an overall grade of at least 85% (Exam 1: 20%, Exam 2: 20%, MM ID exam: 20%, Fish ID Practical: 20%, Quizzes: 10%, Homework: 5%, Performance and attitude: 5%).
3. Turn in all homework legible and on time.
4. Successfully complete all training trip requirements.
5. Be certified in Red Cross CPR and First Aid before attending observer training.

General Standards

1. Demonstrate sea survival skills
2. Demonstrate an ability to work without supervision
3. Demonstrate an ability to communicate with others professionally and with tact
4. Demonstrate being unbiased in data collection and recording
5. Demonstrate respect and ability to follow confidentiality policies and conflict of interest policies.

Your signature below signifies that you have read and understand these standards and policies.

List any medical conditions here *or* write in "NONE": _____

Emergency Contact Information:

Contact Name Contact Relationship (i.e., friend, parent) Contact Phone Number (day/evening)

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____